

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed October 7, 2003, Applicants amend their application and request reconsideration.

In this Amendment claims 4-6, 11, 15, and 20 are cancelled. Previously, claims 7, 10, 12, 16, 21, and 22 were cancelled. Thus, claims 1-3, 13, 14, and 17-19 remain pending.

In this Amendment, each of the independent claims is amended by specifying the composition of the matrix. In this regard, part of claim 5 and all of claim 6 are added to claim 1 in the amended form of that claim. Further, the material of the superparamagnetic nano-particles is specified by incorporating part of claim 11 into claim 1. These amendments all find support in the application as filed in numerous locations, such as the paragraphs at page 5 of the specification beginning at line 13 and ending at line 22. Claim 2, and corresponding claims 14 and 19, are amended to state that the superparamagnetic nano-particles are ellipsoidal, as described in the patent application at page 5, line 10 and at other locations. These amendments do not add new matter since they are supported by the patent application as filed and the previously examined claims. These amendments require the cancellation of claims 4-6, 11, 15, and 20 to avoid duplication or inconsistencies in the claims.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 11, 13, and 18 were rejected as anticipated by Ritter (U.S. Patent No. 5,316,699) and claims 2-4, 8, 9, 14, 15, 17, 19, and 20 were rejected as unpatentable over Ritter in view of Ohtaki (U.S. Patent No. 6,063,303) and Hemmi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,886,173, hereinafter Hemmi).

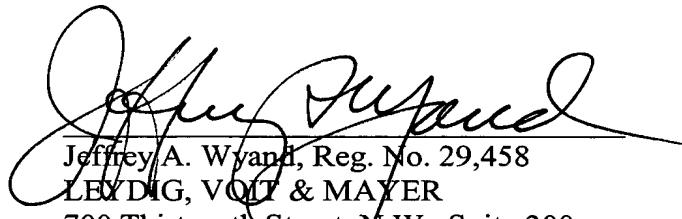
These rejections are respectfully traversed as to the claims presented in this Amendment.

While an extended discussion could be presented with regard to the rejections, it is sufficient to point out that none of Ritter, Ohtaki, nor Hemmi describes the compositions of the matrix or the compositions of the superparamagnetic nano-particles that are defined by the amended claims. Thus, no combination of those references could suggest any claim now pending.

In re Appln. of PARK et al.
Application No. 09/839,594

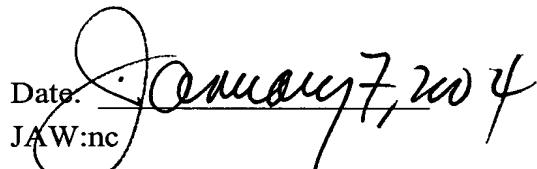
Since the foregoing amendment places the application in form for allowance, its entry and allowance of the remaining claims are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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